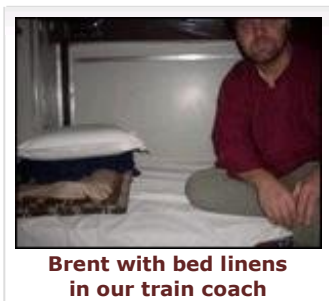


# Bye, Bye, Mumbai!

*Nyderabad, Anhrda Pradesh, India - February 8, 2008*

Amy:



When we boarded the train at Victoria Station in Mumbai, we were surprised and very pleased to find that the 1st Class AC compartments had 2 bunk beds with 2 beds each (instead of 3 beds, upper, middle, and lower bunks in 2nd and 3rd class). There was a locking door, lights, mirrors, window shades, and no bars on the windows, in addition to small tables. We got settled and met our roommates, a man and his son (about 9 years old) who were going back to Hyderabad, where they live. We unpacked a bit and were soon brought a bag with clean sheets, a wool blanket, and a washcloth! Complete luxury!!!

We couldn't believe our good fortune.

[Naresh: I knew that we had really seen only a small part of Mumbai, and not the full range of where they keep 20 million people. So as the train left the station I covered myself behind the curtains to better see the city roll by out the window. Although it was dark I could see the lights of buildings, commuter stations, and tall apartment buildings and offices roll by. I watched for a long while, determined to understand where the city ended. But I never did see the end of the Mumbai. The city never did end; it just went on and on, much much longer than my attention span.]



At around 11:00 p.m., we put the sheets on the bed and Brent climbed into his lower bunk and I climbed into mine. Brent fell asleep in about 5 seconds, while it took me a while longer. Much longer. The train rocks and rocks and lurches and makes a lot of noise. I finally fell asleep, but was awoken by at 1:30 b/c I had to use the restroom. I use the term "restroom" loosely. Anyway, the room was flooded with light b/c the boy who was in the upper bunk was afraid of the dark. Plus, the room was freezing. We had been given wool blankets, but not enough. Needless to say, I couldn't get back to sleep for many hours. I tossed and turned and even woke Brent up... but no sleep. At least until morning. [Naresh: The train was fantastic. The moving car rocked me to sleep all night long while keeping me warm and cozy. I'm thinking of adding a moving-train carriage beneath our bed when we get home.]



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